

从认知负荷模式之视角看英汉同传中的顺句驱动策略

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从认知负荷模式之视角看英汉同传中的顺句驱动策略

A Study of Syntactic Linearity in English-Chinese Simultaneous

Interpretation: From the Perspective of Gile’s Efforts Model

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## **Abstract**

The instantaneous and simultaneous processing of multiple tasks of SI undoubtedly forces the interpreter to work under tremendous pressure, both physically and psychologically. The innumerable differences between English and Chinese add to the difficulty of interpretation. Differences between English and Chinese in terms of syntax are mainly embodied in the word order. If the interpreter makes considerable adjustments to the word order of the source language when producing the output in the target language, he/she will not only have to make a lot of efforts to organize a new statement but also he/she will have to lengthen the Ear-Voice-Span (EVS), which will dramatically increase the burden of memory, making the interpreter attend to one thing and lose another, thereby causing underperformance or even failure of the interpretation. Syntactic linearity refers to putting the source-language discourse into the target language by basically using the original source-language word order. It can greatly reduce the efforts in adjusting word orders and reduce memory load by shortening the EVS. It has the advantages of high maneuverability and high effectiveness.

In the interpreting circle, numerous theories have been put forward to guide the interpreting practice, such as Interpretive Theory, Relevance Theory, Information Theory, and so on. In view of the instantaneity of SI, the differences between Chinese and English languages and the limitation of people's cognitive efforts, the author thinks that Gile's Efforts Model has better demonstrated the necessity and effectiveness of the strategy of syntactic linearity and is able to guide the English-Chinese simultaneous interpretation practice more effectively.

This thesis enumerates the most commonly-used techniques of syntactic linearity, namely, cutting, transforming, adding, omitting, repeating, summarizing, etc., and verifies their effectiveness through plenty of examples.

Then a case study is carried out on the simultaneous interpretation of UN

President Barack Obama's speech at the UN Climate Summit in 2014 from the perspective of Gile's Efforts Model and the application of the syntactic linearity tactics, to evaluate the performance of the interpreter and interpretation quality, and put forward proposals for improving the quality, and hopefully serve as a reference for further study and practices of simultaneous interpretation (SI).

**Key words:** English-Chinese SI; Gile's Efforts Model; syntactic linearity; techniques



## 摘要

同传的即时性和多任务同时进行使得译员在生理和心理上承受着巨大的压力。而英汉同传中英汉语言的巨大差异又增加了口译的难度。英汉语言在句法方面的巨大差异主要体现在语序的很大不同，译员如果在输出译文时，对源语语序进行较大调整，不仅要耗费很多精力在组织语句上还要拉长听说时间差（EVS），加大记忆的负担，让译员顾此失彼，容易导致口译的失败。而顺译是把源语按照源语的语序翻译成目的语的口译方式，它能大大减少调整语序需要花费的精力和减轻拉长时间差造成的记忆负荷，具有操作性强和有效性高的优点。

虽然口译界存在很多理论来指导口译实践，比如释意理论、关联理论、信息理论等等，但是从同传的即时性、英汉语言的差异性、生理、心理以及认知的有限性考虑，笔者认为吉尔的认知负荷模式很好地论证了顺译策略的必要性和有效性，能更有效地指导英汉同传实践。

本文归纳了顺译常用的几大技巧一分切、转换、增词、省略、重复、归纳等等，并通过大量实例进一步验证它们的有效性。之后从认知负荷模式的角度结合常用顺译策略分析了 2014 年联合国气候峰会上奥巴马演讲的同传案例，评估译员的表现和译文质量，并提出改进意见。

**关键词：**英汉同传；认知负荷模式；顺译；技巧

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## Chapter One Introduction

With the acceleration of globalization process, exchanging of ideas among nations speaking different languages is on dramatic increase, which can not be done without interpreting. The profession of interpreting has become indispensable part of human's activities across borders. And with the emergence of an increasing number of speeches, talks and conferences of exchanges and negotiations on issues of human's common concern – economic cooperation, trade disputes, climate change, political turmoil, etc., simultaneous interpreting has become critical approach for the participants to exchange ideas and the world citizens to get aware of the important events in process instantly, which can be regarded as a big step for human progress in civilization. Simultaneous interpretation has been more widely adopted than consecutive interpretation and it has been under exploration since after World War II. Various scholars have proposed their theories since then in an effort to take their parts in supporting and explaining the activity, among which Gile's Efforts Model is illustrious. And in the practice of simultaneous interpretation, the principle of syntactic linearity is proposed to save the interpreter's efforts to the most for steady performance of the task.

Due to lack of systematic and analytical reference books and papers and personal real-time practices or experiences, the writer intends to make a tentative study of English-Chinese simultaneous interpreting in the principle of syntactic linearity from the perspective of Gile's Efforts Model.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters:

Chapter One is a brief introduction to the international contact and the emergence of interpretation as a profession.

Chapter Two demonstrates the history of interpretation starting from the bible story of Babel Tower which symbolizes barriers of human contact and is

considered as the origin of language diversity mythologically. And the evolution of interpreting as a profession from ancient China to current days is presented. It's followed by a comparison between translation and interpretation and the definitions of simultaneous interpretation (SI) and syntactic linearity (SL), which is an important principle for SI.

In Chapter Three, major theories related to interpretation are presented, among which Relevance Theory and Interpretive Theory are briefly introduced while much emphasis is placed on the introduction to and analysis of Gile's Efforts Model, which is the theoretical guideline and basis for syntactic linearity (SL). Economy Principle and Minimalist Program are presented afterwards to serve as a further support of Gile's Efforts Model and the syntactic linearity.

Chapter Four explores the necessity and feasibility of SL by comparing English and Chinese from the perspective of syntax and grammar both in similarities and differences.

In Chapter Five, the writer strings up techniques of syntactic linearity from reading some reference works and papers, and exemplifies application of each technique including cutting, conversing, adding, repeating, omitting, summarizing, etc. with plenty of typical examples.

Chapter Six presents a case study on the application of syntactic linearity, which is about the simultaneous interpretation of the remarks by President Obama on the UN Climate Summit in 2014. The writer carries out a detailed analysis on the interpreter's application of different syntactic linearity techniques and their effectiveness from the perspective of Efforts Model. Major findings and discussions are presented in the end.

Chapter Seven is a conclusion of the thesis, which discusses the limitations of this thesis and provides suggestions that hopefully can be of some reference value for future researches in simultaneous interpreting.

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